

## Participant Questions & Answers

### USEPA, Region 9, Water Quality Assessment Report (WQAR) Template Webinar

*Webinar was on September 7, 2011*

**1. Have there been any changes to the template from last year?**

There have not been any changes made to the WQAR version 2010 Template this year. If you would like to download the most current version of the Region 9 WQAR Template please visit the following website: <http://www.epa.gov/region09/water/tribal/cwa-reporting.html#two> .

**2. I thought that CWA, Section 106 funding could not be used "off Reservation" (i.e. non-trust) land. Is this not correct?**

CWA 106 funds may be used to conduct water quality monitoring off Reservation if these waters influence waters on the reservation. For example, a tribe may conduct CWA-106 funded monitoring upstream off the Reservation on a creek that flows onto the Reservation. The tribe however, is responsible to obtain its own access to the off reservation waters since neither the USEPA nor the Clean Water Act provides this authority under a CWA 106 grant.

**3. Do we include all of the water bodies located on Reservation Land in Tab #2, the WQAR Template? Or just the water bodies that we monitor?**

The template should be filled with information from the water bodies that you have monitored for the duration of the Monitoring Period you list at the top of the Template. The Atlas or Tab #3 is where you provide an inventory of all of the waters located on the Tribe's Reservation.

**4. Does "located on reservation" include or not include fee land of reservation?**

"Located on reservation" is defined as all waters within the exterior boundaries of the reservation. Since many tribes have both fee & trust land contained within the boundaries of their reservation, waters on these fee and trust parcels are included. Waters on tribal trust land not contiguous to the reservation are also included. Waters located on fee parcels not located within the exterior reservation boundaries are considered as off reservation. As noted in question #2, obtaining permission to monitor on fee parcels both on and off reservation is the responsibility of the tribe, since neither the USEPA nor the Clean Water Act provides this authority.

**5. Are Profiles (monitoring at increments from the surface to the bottom of a water body)**

**necessary for deep water bodies? Or is the focus of monitoring at a surface water level?**

The type of monitoring that your tribal water quality program performs depends on the amount of resources you have available and is based upon the tribal water quality goals and objectives for that water body. If measuring water quality at incremental depths of a deep water body is an objective of your monitoring program, you can record those measurements or data results in the STORET-compatible WQX Template (For more information about this template, please go to the following link: <http://www.epa.gov/region09/water/tribal/cwa-reporting.html#three> ).

You can then analyze those results and determine if that water body is meeting your designated uses for input into the WQAR Template.

The focus of the CWA 106 Program is to monitor water body health, therefore, it is up to your program to decide how to implement a monitoring plan that will meet your water quality goals and objectives.

**6. RE: "Change in water quality since the start of the monitoring period" -does this pertain only to the current "year" (as the monitoring period)?**

Changes in water quality tend to take a longer amount of time than one monitoring period. If your tribal program has never monitored water quality or doesn't have enough data to show a change in water quality, then simply choose "Unknown" from the drop-down menu. If you have completed a WQAR Template for previous monitoring periods and have data that you can compare from one year to another, we suggest that you make a determination based upon the comparison of data from year to year to answer the question within the Template.

**7. Are the data entries monthly, quarterly or mean values for the period?**

The Region 9 WQAR Template is an annual requirement if your tribal program receives CWA 106 funding. The Template should be submitted at the end of your monitoring season to your CWA Project Officer. The Region 9 WQAR Template is an overall water quality assessment of the raw water quality results you have collected over a course of a monitoring season. The water quality data results can be collected over any amount of time, as long as it is on a consistent basis (ie. Hourly, Daily, Weekly, Monthly, Quarterly) and should be recorded in the STORET-compatible WQX Template. Your assessment based upon these data results can include mean values if you believe that this is most representative of the data your tribal program has collected over the course of a monitoring period.

**8. In the Water body column, can I enter a well?**

Yes, “well” is included as one of the choices in the drop down menu for that column.

**9. Regarding rare and endangered species, does that mean that they are known to exist in the region?**

Yes. If there is a plant or animal (including fish) species of concern to you on the reservation you can check with the local offices of the US Fish and Wildlife Service (FWS), National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) and the State or Tribal Heritage Center. These offices maintain lists of federally listed endangered or threatened species on their internet sites.

**10. In Tab #3: Atlas of Tribal Waters, was the Number of Springs entry removed from the WQAR Template?**

The “Number of Springs” entry row continues to be included in Tab #3 on the current version of the template.

**11. “Distance covered or surface area monitored” does not apply for wells in drop down menu...What do you suggest we enter in this column?**

For wells, you do not need to answer this column as it is not applicable. Feel free to leave this column blank.

**12. For the Frequency of Monitoring data, if you collect continuous data (every 30 minutes) and perform weekly bacteria samples, would you put "every 30 minutes" and then further describe the situation in the narrative section?**

Listing “every 30 minutes” is an acceptable answer for this column. It is recommended to describe it further as section 5.b of the narrative does in fact ask you to describe your approach for determining frequency of monitoring.

**13. Does the cattle association have a difficult time with allowing wetlands to be fenced off and protected? (Answered by Gina Leverette, SRPMIC)**

There is no cattle association that represents the Tribe here and the cattle association outside the reservation does not pose any restrictions within our Tribal boundaries nor does it voice any opinions about what is done.

There are a couple of private cattle owners living within the reservation that allow their cattle to roam free. IF we attempted to fence off certain wetland areas these parties may not like the areas being restricted, but will have no choice in the matter because the fencing would be done at the approval of the Tribal Council.

**14. What is a voluntary wetland? (Answered by Gina Leverette, SRPMIC)**

A voluntary wetland is one that is NOT constructed. SRPMIC has 2 constructed treatment wetlands, so because we have two types of wetlands we use the terms "voluntary" and "constructed" to distinguish one from the other.

**15. Our program applied for the Competitive 319 Program last year. We had our debrief and know why we were not selected. Can we reapply this year using the information that we were given during our debrief?**

Please reapply! We're glad to hear that you went through the debriefing process and want you to utilize the information you received during that process to strengthen your proposal. The debrief is the only chance we at EPA get to discuss your competitive NPS proposal, and we strongly encourage you to request that process whether or not you receive competitive NPS funding.

**16. Will the WQAR Webinar PowerPoint presented today be emailed to us? Can we access this in the future?**

The Powerpoint Presentation along with any associated information that was used during this Webinar will be posted at the following website: <http://www.epa.gov/region09/water/tribal/cwa-reporting.html#two> .

We will email all R9 Tribes receiving CWA 106 funding when the documents are available.

**17. Where can we access the WQAR Tutorial? I have new employees on my staff and I'd like them to go through the Tutorial.**

We're glad you're interested in using our new WQAR Tutorial to help educate your staff in how to assess water quality data and input information into the Region 9 WQAR Template. If you would like to use the WQAR Tutorial please visit the following website:

<http://www.epa.gov/region09/water/tribal/cwa-reporting.html#two> . Click on, [WQAR Template Tutorial 2010 \(PDF\)](#) ( 8 pp, 336K) to access the tutorial. (You can also access it from this document by holding down your CTRL button and clicking on the link provided above)

**18. Where is the Analysis part of the WQAR Tutorial found?**

If you would like to use the WQAR Tutorial for the purposes of learning how to analyze your data, please visit the following website: <http://www.epa.gov/region09/water/tribal/cwa-reporting.html#two> . Click on, [WQAR Template Tutorial 2010 \(PDF\)](#) ( 8 pp, 336K) to access

the tutorial. (You can also access it from this document by holding down your CTRL button and clicking on the link provided above)

**19. It seems that most of the water in Region 9 Indian Country is Satisfactory according to the data collected from the WQAR Templates last year...How does this compare to the national or state average?**

The purpose of the WQAR template is to provide a general picture of water quality in Indian Country in Region 9. At this time we are unable to compare results of the WQAR template to national or state averages.

**20. Are there any other regions using the WQAR Template?**

Other Regions are considering adopting the Region 9 WQAR Template and have requested copies of the WQAR Template. These Regions include: Region 5, Region 6, and Region 7. Region 9 is the only Region that has used it on a consistent basis for 3 years.

**21. How do I submit the WQAR to the EPA?**

Please submit the WQAR Template to your CWA 106 project officer in electronic, Excel format (no PDFs or paper copies, if possible).

**22. When do I submit the WQAR to EPA?**

You have until December 31<sup>st</sup>, 2011 (90 days past the end of the fiscal year) to submit the WQAR to EPA. If you have any questions regarding submission dates, please contact your project officer.

**23. How often do I need to submit the WQAR to EPA?**

You only need to submit the WQAR Template once per year to fulfill the annual reporting requirement.

**24. I am semi-comfortable with the WQAR template, but if I have any questions, who should I contact for a quick response?**

Please feel free to contact any of the following individuals at Region 9:

Audrey L. Johnson, 415-972-3431, Johnson.AudreyL@epa.gov

Christopher Chen, 415-972-3442, Chen.Christopher@epa.gov

Janis Gomes, 415-972-3517, Gomes.Janis@epa.gov

Mariela Lopez, 415-972-3771, Lopez.Mariela@epa.gov

**Comments:**

**For water body type, I would like to have pond included.**

For water bodies such as ponds, I would recommend that you choose either “Lake” or “Other-Surface Water” for your water body type.

**Outlet repair/removal not defined under watershed restoration project.**

Thank you for providing us with this information. We always welcome comments regarding the WQAR Template.